



## The New Zealand Wars Ngā Pakanga o Aotearoa

By Vincent O'Malley. Wellington, Bridget Williams Books, 2019. 272 pp., illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography. ISBN 978988545998 (pbk), 9781988545998 (ebook). NZ\$39.99 (pbk), NZ\$20.00 (ebook).

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Operation Yewtree and #MeToo, this book should be the 21st-century choice for timeless discussions regarding the historian's craft.

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*The New Zealand Wars Ngā Pakanga o Aotearoa*. By Vincent O'Malley. Wellington, Bridget Williams Books, 2019. 272 pp., illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography. ISBN 978988545998 (pbk), 9781988545998 (ebook). NZ\$39.99 (pbk), NZ\$20.00 (ebook).

On 12 September 2019, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern made a historic announcement detailing how, by 2022, all schools and *kura* (Māori-language immersion schools) across Aotearoa New Zealand would be required to teach key aspects of the country's history, including the New Zealand Wars. A number of catalysts precipitated this, one of which was the May 2019 release of Vincent O'Malley's *The New Zealand Wars Ngā Pakanga o Aotearoa*. Such was its popularity that it completely sold out within weeks (requiring a reprint), the title hitting number one on several bestseller charts.

O'Malley's influential work perfectly captures the zeitgeist of 2019 Aotearoa New Zealand, a nation with an increasing appetite for devouring an accurate retelling of the wars that shaped it. As he explains, following the conclusion in 1872 of the New Zealand Wars, many Pākehā (non-Māori New Zealanders) embraced a highly romanticized version of these conflicts. This book serves as a welcome corrective. It provides a succinct overview of the wars fought across Aotearoa New Zealand between 1845 and 1872, insightfully examining the motivations of the combatants on both sides as and, when sufficient evidence to reveal them has survived, the outcomes of each conflict, and the consequences for the nation today.

As O'Malley points out, while the First and Second World Wars are recognized as highly significant for Aotearoa New Zealand, the wars fought on the country's own soil were, comparatively speaking, of a far greater magnitude in terms of deaths per capita. In one telling example, he recounts how the death rate for Tūranga Māori during conflicts between 1865 and 1869 resulted in a per capita death rate 10 times higher than New Zealanders killed during the First World War as a percentage of the nation's population, and almost 30 times higher than for the Second World War. Impacts on Māori extended to *raupatu* (land confiscations) as the Crown seized a staggering 3,676,058 acres (almost 1,487,648 hectares) of land from Māori it deemed to be its enemies, much of which is held as Crown land today.

Māori loyalties, for a range of complex reasons, were divided and shifting throughout the period of the New Zealand Wars. At the outset of his book, O'Malley commences with an overview of the combatants. He explains how the New Zealand Wars were not simply fought between Māori and Pākehā. There were Māori who fought for the Crown or who switched allegiances sometimes more than once during the course of these wars. British exploitation of so-called 'friendly natives' is a phenomenon familiar to historians of the former empire, as this was a tactic used extensively across multiple colonies by the invading power to further its aims. At the same time, many Indigenous peoples, including Māori, forged allegiances with the newcomers to further their own local or tribal interests. Likewise, some Pākehā chose to fight alongside Māori for various reasons.

Staying momentarily with the combatants, O'Malley provides useful insights into the deployment of the 14 British infantry regiments that served in Aotearoa New Zealand across the three decades between 1840 and 1870. He also explains how local forces were raised,

sometimes combining militia and policing roles, with military settlers also playing a role in eventually establishing British control. While the finer details differed between colonies, such strategic initiatives on the part of the British are also familiar to historians of its former empire from other contexts, rendering O'Malley's work useful for comparative purposes in addition to providing a basis on which to understand better the New Zealand Wars.

The book is structured into sections that deal with the major theatres of war, moving in a largely chronological order through accounts of the Northern War, Central New Zealand Wars, Taranaki War, Waikato War, the war at Tauranga, Pai Mārire and the west coast campaigns, the east coast wars, Titokowaru's campaign, to the pursuit of Te Kooti. O'Malley then considers the legacies left by the New Zealand Wars and discusses steps taken towards redress. He concludes with sections that consider how the New Zealand Wars have been remembered and forgotten, and how these conflicts are being commemorated.

Two key elements of the text really bring this difficult yet intriguing history to life. Many of the key historical actors and some lesser-known figures are introduced by O'Malley and the entanglements between their personal and public lives make for interesting reading. The written text is also richly illustrated. These illustrations extend well beyond portraits of numerous key individuals to visual materials pertaining to the sites at which conflicts took place (such as maps, buildings, fortifications), weaponry, archival documents, artefacts, and some graphical representations of quantitative data. Particularly striking visuals include the Aotearoa flag created by Heni Te Kiri Karamu, the flag of the United Tribes, a Pai Mārire flag, and Te Kooti's flag.

While it is not possible to recount all the details known about each conflict in a 272-page volume (the author has previously published a 690-page book on the Waikato War alone), O'Malley has crafted a useful resource that provides readers who are new to the topic with a succinct overview. It will be particularly useful for teachers, and for students in the upper levels at schools, as Aotearoa New Zealand rolls out its revised history curriculum. It will also be a valuable introductory text at tertiary level. Finally, *The New Zealand Wars Ngā Pakanga O Aotearoa* ought to become a standard text for scholars beyond Aotearoa New Zealand who are engaging with the country's history and/or working on comparative colonies.

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*Tiki: Marquesan Art and the Krusenstern Expedition*, Edited by Elena Govor and Nicholas Thomas. Leiden, Sidestone Press, 2019. 250 pp., illustrations, notes, bibliography. ISBN 9789088906916 (hbk), 9789088906909 (pbk), 9789088906923 (ebook). €150.00 (hbk), €49.95 (pbk), €9.95 (ebook), or read online for free.

It might surprise the reader to know that it was the Russians, on their first circumnavigation, who collected a large collection of artefacts and objects of material culture from Nuku Hiva, the largest island of the Marquesas, today belonging to French Polynesia. In May 1804 two Russian ships, the *Neva* and the *Nadezhda* under the leadership of Captain Adam Johann von Krusenstern (in Russian Ivan F. Kruzenshtern) (1770–1846) and Captain-Lieutenant Yuri Lisiansky (1773–1837), arrived at Nuku Hiva ostensibly for provisions. The first Russian circumnavigation was an ambitious project including several naturalists such as the Germans Georg Heinrich von Langsdorff, Otto von Kotzebue and Wilhelm Gottlieb Tilesius von Tilenau. Throughout their 12-day stay on the island, expedition members traded with the